

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

JAN. 6, 2023



“When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.” – Matthew 2:9-10

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

The Feast of the Epiphany

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982)

Tolling of the bell

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,

And kings to the brightness of your dawn. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

O Gracious Light *Phos Hilaron*

O gracious Light,

pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the vesper light,

we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O Giver of life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Radiant Morning Star, you are both guidance and mystery. Visit our rest with disturbing dreams, and our journeys with strange companions. Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom bearing profound and unusual gifts.

Amen

Hymn

What star is this, with beams so bright

**What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King
Glad tidings of our God to bring.**

**'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! The Eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek thy face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.**

**To God the Father, and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in one
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise.**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be
no more.

**10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.

**12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

We three kings

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,**

**westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

[Refrain]

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

[Refrain]

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.**

[Refrain]

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

[Refrain]

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.**

[Refrain]

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew 2:1-12
Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

Discussion

Affirmation

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and to serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope,**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

The Prayers of the People

Sisters and brothers, let us lift our hearts in faith to the one who hears all prayers and holds close all those in need.

Gracious God, who gave us the gift of your Son at Christmas, may we, the Church, gather round the manger and worship, and then carry the good news of your healing love into a world of brokenness and hurt.

(Silence)

Almighty God, we pray for this world, so full of hate and fear. May the nations come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn of love and peace. We pray for our nation, divided by distrust and suspicion of one another. We pray that the light of your love will lead us toward understanding, tolerance and love for one another, so that we can be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. *(Silence)*

Eternal God, as we gaze into the night sky and observe the stars at their rising, we give you thanks and praise for the wonders of the universe; for galaxies, for the sun, for the stars and planets that wheel across the sky in the paths you have set for them, for our planet, Mother Earth, and for all the life she brings forth and sustains. As we receive the gifts of this earth with gratitude, may we give you the gift of our love and thanks as we tenderly care for your creation. *(Silence)*

Merciful God, we pray for those who suffer from any danger, sorrow, trouble, need or sickness, especially Jim Heimbach, Susan Linne von Berg, and all those on our prayer list. Strengthen and give courage to all who care for those who are suffering.

(Silence)

God, our creator and our end, give us grace to bear bravely the changes we must undergo, and the pain we may have to face as we follow the road home to you. Give us courage to welcome that unimaginable and joyful moment awaiting us when we come to dwell in the joy of your eternal light and life. Give us trust and confidence, and at the last give us peace.

(Silence)

Holy God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our savior. Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn Brightest and Best

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure,
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessing

May the light of God illumine the heart of your soul.
May the flame of Christ kindle you to love.
May the fire of the Spirit free you to live.
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with
you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn

As with gladness men of old

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior to thy lowly bed
There to bend the knee before Thee whom heaven and earth adore
So may we with willing feet, ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring unto thee, our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesus, every day, keep us in the narrow way,
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright, need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down,
there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Announcements

People in the Anglican Communion around the world come together in Epiphany through the Good Book Club to read various books of the Bible. This year the group is reading Ruth and Esther. The daily readings begin today, January 6.

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/readings/>

Sign up for updates

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/get-involved/>

Free Guide from Forward Movement

<https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2667/ruth-and-esther-bible-study.aspx>

Introduction to Ruth

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Introduction-to-Ruth.pdf>

Introduction to Esther

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Introduction-to-Esther.pdf>.

Financial Support for St Peter's. By Mail, PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. **and at St Peter's online.** <https://churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

----- Coming Up -----

-Jan 6, Epiphany Worship, On Zoom at 7pm (6:45pm)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86999263545?pwd=WHpNa1JrU0J0OGdMV3NMRIhmWUVCZz09>

The Baptism of Jesus. The first Sunday after Epiphany is the celebration of Jesus' baptism, and the opportunity to remember our own baptisms and renew our baptismal vows.

-Jan 8, Sunday Worship, On Zoom at 11AM (10:45am)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86999263545?pwd=WHpNa1JrU0J0OGdMV3NMRIhmWUVCZz09>

Resources:

[The Book of Common Prayer](#)

[The Hymnal 1982](#)

[Daily Prayer for all Seasons](#)

[The New Zealand Prayer Book](#)

[Revised Common Lectionary Prayers](#)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535

Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908

The Vestry

Becky Fisher, Andrea Pogue (2023), Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)

Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)

Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar

Becky Fisher, Senior Warden

Cookie Davis, Junior Warden

Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com

**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring
Prayer List**

Jim Heimbach, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Mike and Marilyn Newman, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom

Ruby Barnes (Laura Carey's sister), **Claire Cole Curcio** (friend of Catherine Hicks), **Sandra Smith, Otis Felts** (friend of Johnny Davis), **The Glasgows** (friends of the Felicianos), **Randall Clingenpeel, Mrs. Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's mother), **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Jimmy Davis, Julie Davis** (sister, brother and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Nathaniel Schakenberg, Martha Oldham** (Mike Newman's sister), **Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo Coleman's son), **Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Orville Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's brother), **Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **Odessa Davis, Kelly Paterino, G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Anna Haug, Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Dot Wright, Carolyn and Butch Delhagen** (Newman relatives), **Mary Lawrence Hicks** (Catherine and Ben Hicks' daughter), **Rodney C. Johnson** (Hicks' friend), **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V